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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 000782

SIPDIS

RABAT/CASABLANCA PASS TO IBB/DARREL DUCKWORTH IN TANGIER
BBG PASS TO WALTER BORYS AND WILFRED COOPER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [ASEC](#) [KPAO](#) [KU](#) [DJ](#) [BBG](#)

SUBJECT: PK12 RETURNS TO FULL OPERATIONS AFTER MAY EXPLOSION

[11.](#) (U) SUMMARY: The International Board of Broadcasters (IBB) radio station at PK12 is back to full operations after an explosion and subsequent detection of unexploded ordinance (UXO) on the site. Plans for full site clearance continue. END SUMMARY

[12.](#) (U) At 2am on May 3 an explosion took place in an unused area of the PK12 compound, IBB's Radio Sawa site in Djibouti, which is a former French firing range. No one was injured and property damage was minimal. The explosion was determined by Djiboutian authorities and the RSO to be caused by UXO and not/not to be criminally related in any way. RSO prohibited all USG employees from accessing the site as a safety concern until the situation could be further examined and resolved.

[13.](#) (U) IBB is currently pursuing full-clearance of the site through the engagement of two possible providers: The U.S. Military and the Djiboutian Military. Any clearance agreement would cover the entire site, plus 150-ft. from site perimeter. The Djiboutian military would sign a liability waiver in case of injury to their personnel during the clearance process. All associated costs would be borne by IBB.

[14.](#) (U) On May 26, the RSO approved the return of American personnel to cleared areas of the site contingent upon posting of warning signs in multiple languages around affected area and briefings for all personnel on safety issues.

[15.](#) (U) Every station employee (USG and local partner) was briefed. Security personnel at IBB and DOS, as well as Post and IBB management approved the content of the briefing. At Post's recommendation, each station employee signed a statement attesting that he or she had been instructed on which areas of IBB property were off-limits. These forms will be kept on file by IBB.

[16.](#) (U) A team of explosives experts from Camp Lemonier surveyed the site. In this initial survey 36 pieces of unexploded ordinance were found and destroyed. The team leader proposed that the Camp Lemonier group provide a full sweep and clearance of the site in conjunction with the Djiboutian demining team. The clearance would be a training exercise, with minimal associated costs borne by IBB.

[17.](#) (U) Comment: It is the opinion of the team leader that little or no additional ordinance will be found on the site; however, there is some concern that locals are finding UXO and bringing it to the site for disposal. The 36 pieces were removed from an unused area of the compound that is surrounded by a chain link fence, in addition to the usual perimeter fence and security. No/no ordinance was found on developed areas of the compound.

[18.](#) (SBU) The JAG at Camp Lemonier has rejected the team leader's proposal on the following grounds:

"From 10 United States Code Section 401, entitled 'Humanitarian and civic assistance provided in conjunction with military operations': (a)(4) 'The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that no member of the armed forces, while providing assistance under this section that is described in subsection (e)(5)---(A) engages in the physical detection, lifting, or destroying of landmines (unless the member does so for the concurrent purpose of supporting a United States military operation); or (B) provides such assistance as part of a military operation that does not involve the armed forces.' (e)(5) 'Detection and clearance of landmines, including activities relating to the furnishing of education, training, and technical assistance with respect to the detection and clearance of landmines.'"

[19.](#) (SBU) Post and IBB and question whether the JAG interpretation is accurate given that this clearance does not deal with landmines and would take place on USG property. We understand that a similar project took place at the IBB site in Kuwait in 1993, with UXO cleared by DOD. IBB

is following up through appropriate DOD channels in Washington.

RAGSDALE